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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
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RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 9701
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 4548
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 7865
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SIPDIS

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USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - BURMA

¶1. LEAD STORIES: All Tuesday morning papers gave top or front-page play to the decision on Monday by the government revitalization unit to review 447 government programs in the fiscal 2010 budget as part of its efforts to curtail the "wasteful" use of taxpayer money.

¶2. "Myanmar Should Take Steps toward Democratization" The liberal Mainichi editorialized (11/10): "The U.S. has launched direct talks with the nation's military junta out of concern that Myanmar could become another troublesome 'rogue state' like North Korea. This is a major policy shift from the sanctions-only approach that Washington has taken in the past.... The leadership of Myanmar should not let this opportunity pass by. It is time for the leaders of Myanmar to boldly change their policy. We hope the nation will reconstruct its close relations with Japan and work toward achieving a legitimate democratic nation... Specifically, the junta must release Aung San Suu Kyi and allow her freedom to act. The leaders must also conduct next year's general election, the first to be held in 20 years, in a fair manner, acceptable to the international community.... Assistant Secretary of State Campbell stated to the U.S. Congress that he will work with Japan, the EU, and Australia to democratize Myanmar and will call on China and India to urge the junta to carry out reform. We hope the U.S. will maintain this policy."

ROOS